



### **From the Board**

We hope that you and your family are safe, and we share your hope that this pandemic is over quickly. Many of our initiatives at NAPHA are on hold, but there was much accomplished since our last newsletter and before the crisis. We hope you will enjoy this update and continue your generous support! We believe the story of aluminum invention and development is important and under-told. Most people do not know aluminum's humble beginnings were started by a 22-year-old college graduate in the woodshed behind his house. The development of a whole new industry and range of new products followed. Despite important first of their kind facilities in Niagara and Massena, New York's contribution to this story is virtually unknown. We'll try to correct that!



*Doris Robinson & Alcoa VP (and Massena Alcoa)  
Vince Scorsone*

### **Doris & The Continuous Mill**

I heard a story about Doris Robinson several years ago. Then CEO Paul O'Neil was walking near the 12" Continuous Mill with a former Massena Ops employee named Vince Scorsone. Vince had moved on to the Pittsburgh Office as VP of Alcoa and was visiting Massena that day with Mr. O'Neil. Not known for being shy, Doris yelled to Vince to ask if he was stopping to say hi to his former colleagues. Vince turned around and was not surprised to see Doris as the source of the noise. He immediately stopped and greeted Doris and was delighted to see her as evidenced by the picture taken at that moment by the official photographer to the CEO.

That story begins to describe Doris, who worked 43 years at Alcoa starting in 1953 when there was approximately 6,000 people who worked at Massena Operations. She worked in the Machine Shop, Mailroom, Switchboard, 140, 79, Cable Mill, Accessories, Ingot Plant and 12" Mill.

A typical 8-hour shift in the 12" Mill could process 1,400 6x6 billet. It was John Mousaw and Ferris Fregoe who led a production record of 1,800 billet in 8hr in the late 1970's. Doris understood the mill was made for large production runs and understood the rhythm of the machine when everything was working. "Don't touch the men if their eyes were closed during those times because they still needed to be there if something happened" she said.

Doris's father immigrated to the US from England in 1921 after his service in the Royal Navy, for which he received a special recognition from the King. Her mother immigrated a year later. Prior to immigrating her dad worked for Sheffield Steel in Nottingham England. When he arrived in America, Alcoa seemed a good fit. He was one of many immigrants who came to Massena to work for Alcoa.

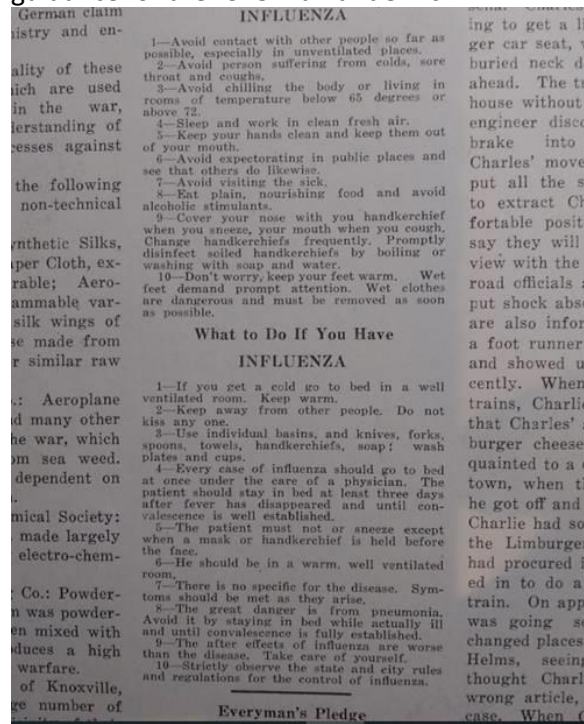
During the early years of Doris's employment with ALCOA, she could walk to work via East



Orvis Street and take the foot bridge across the Grasse River or get a ride from the Boyce Bus Service for 10 cents. Although retired for over 20 years, she stays involved in the ALCOA 25-year Club and helps several other community organizations. When asked what Doris liked most about her time at Alcoa, she responded “the boys, they could make or break you”!

### Pandemic of 1918

Aluminum Bulletin (old Massena Alcoa Publication) Oct. 28, 1918 and contains plant guidance for the 1918 Flu Pandemic



### 25-Year Club Pictures

You recall the many, many frames holding hundreds of 25-Year Club inductees that used to hang in the Cafeteria. All those frames and pictures have been saved by NAPHA and restored by Joseph Savoca. He has volunteered countless hours to restore the pictures in the large frames. Before NAPHA he carefully organized some paper 25-year club records had

from the former Massena Aluminum Historical Assoc (predecessor to NAPHA) and ensured their preservation by donating them to the St. Lawrence County Historical Society. These records, going back to the very first Massena 25-Year Club member are now permanently preserved there. We thank Joseph for his many hours of volunteer work. NAPHA will display the 25-Year Club picture frames at future events.



Joseph Savoca and Massena's 25-Year Club pictures

### New York State Museum

In between our predecessor organization – The Massena Aluminum Historical Assoc. – and NAPHA, Joseph continued to ensure the preservation of Massena history. He provided the New York State Museum with several items manufactured in ACPC (Aluminum Conductor Products Company). In January NAPHA Board member Kevin Kitzman contacted the Museum to see the items. What a surprise when I had to put on gloves to handle them! Interestingly the aluminum dampers and a few other items from GM and Reynold were all that the NYS Museum had to represent the aluminum industry in NYS. Kevin told the curator about the early Pittsburg



Reduction Company plants in Niagara and Massena, and the importance these locations and New York was to the fledgling aluminum industry. The Museum has large collections from General Electric, Carrier, and other NYS firms, but nothing for aluminum except the items noted above. Many people in NYS have worked (and continue to work) in the aluminum industry, however aluminum, and the important contributions from people at Massena and elsewhere, do not have a proper place there. NAPHA will work with NYS Museum to develop an aluminum products and processes exhibition as part of their "Made in New York" series. This is a good place to remind you that if you have saved a piece of aluminum production or process history from Massena (and thank you for saving it) we can work with you to donate it to NAPHA or the NYS Museum. Those museum curators do not mess around, they will keep it forever. And we can arrange to include your story with the artifact.



*If you have any items or mementos from Alcoa, Reynolds or GM, please consider donating these to NAPHA for their preservation.*



## **Arsenal of Democracy Collection**

What better way to honor our veterans than to dedicate significant works to them. Stand #14 from the 12" Mill was set aside in 2014 during decommissioning of that mill. It has been on display within Building 140 since. The 12" Mill was installed in 1943 to support the war effort. Contingent on restoration funding, we plan to dedicate this item to our veterans to recognize them and the important work we do in Massena to keep America safe and free.

The National Aluminum Production Heritage Association (NAPHA) is seeking expressions of interest for restoration of certain historically significant aluminum industry production equipment. NAPHA is seeking a partner in NNY to restore the Continuous 12" Mill stand so it can be dedicated to our men and women in the Armed Forces. Contact NAPHA at 315-764-4389, kevin.kitzman@naphausa.org, or PO Box 277 Massena NY 13662.



***Continuous 12" Mill, installed 1943, Stand 14 on display in Bldg. 140. Approx. 4'x4'x8' 14,000 lbs.***



**NATIONAL ALUMINUM PRODUCTION  
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**

June 2020

Vol. 2 No. 2

National Aluminum Production Heritage Assoc.  
PO Box 277  
Massena, NY 13662

NAPHA is a non-profit 501c3 organization committed to the preservation of artifacts and history, related to production and products of the early aluminum industry for interpretive display at various local, regional and national events, for a broad audience to understand our nation's industrial heritage.

National Aluminum Production Heritage Assoc. Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Donations:

Please make check to "National Aluminum Production Heritage Assoc."

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